

# OF PRIDE AND GLORY

*Truth be told, 2016 wasn't as exciting a year as 2015 as far as Bangladesh's sports arena is concerned. The previous year witnessed Bangladesh's most sought-after sportsmen, the cricketers, surpass boundaries that their fans couldn't have even imagined. The expectations naturally increased in 2016 but weren't met with enough cricket, although the Tigers did go on to win a historic Test against England. Football's drastic fall in 2016 was another aspect that demotivated the country's sports fans. However, the achievements of the Under 16 girls football team and the medals that our athletes won in the Asian Games in 2016 have given us reasons to hope for a much better 2017.*



Mustafizur Rahman's operation didn't allow him to feature for Bangladesh during the crucial games in 2016. But that didn't stop him from receiving accolades. For close to two months Bangladeshi cricket fans were glued on to their TV screens to watch a foreign league and that was all because of this youngster. He was adjudged as the Indian Premier League's Emerging Player of the Year in his very first season and won the title with the Sunrisers Hyderabad. The biggest moment came when the cutter master won the ICC Emerging Player of the Year 2016.

PHOTO: STAR



Aside from spreading fear, the militant attacks in Bangladesh also threatened to affect the country's sporting events. There were teams who were initially skeptical about touring the country, but changed their minds soon after they landed. One of the biggest achievements of the Bangladesh Cricket Board was to host the ICC Under-19 World Cup successfully amidst these nery conditions. Bangladesh didn't get to win the trophy, the West Indies did. The tournament though led to the birth of a new superstar for the Tigers. Mehedi Hasan Miraz, the captain of the former under 19 team, was the player of the tournament back then and eventually found his way through to the top eleven.

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An excited Shakib Al Hasan salutes Ben Stokes after bowling him out on the third day of the second Test. This picture perhaps best describes how important Bangladesh's Test win against England was in early 2016. It was touted by many cricketing pundits as Bangladesh's biggest win in cricketing history, let alone 2016.

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